

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 03428 220957Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9647

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E.O. 11652: N/NA
TAGS: SWEL, EAID, RO
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE REHABILITATION PROGRAM: LIST AND
GOR PROCUREMENT TEAM

REF: A) BUCHAREST 3018 B) 77 BUCHAREST 7024 C) 77 BUCHAREST 3207

1. AT THEIR REQUEST, COMATT MET WITH MFT DIRECTOR
(FOR THE AMERICAS) MUNTEANU, U.S. DESK OFFICERS
IONESCU AND NEAGU, AND EXPORT DIRECTORATE COUNSELOR
PAUN (WHO APPARENTLY PREVIOUSLY WAS MFT ACTION OFFICER
ON AID FINANCING, A RESPONSIBILITY WHICH NEAGU ALLEGES
HE NOW HAS). MUNTEANU ADVISED THAT MFT STILL WORKING
TO COMPLETE DETAILED EQUIPMENT LIST FOR \$13 MILLION
AND THAT LIST ZALL NOT BE READY UNTIL END OF MAY.
MUNTEANU ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT OLD LIST (MENTIONED IN REFTEL C)
IS BASICALLY STILL VALID AND THAT FINAL GOR LIST
EXPECTED TO CONTAIN FEW MODIFICATIONS.

2. CONCERNING PROCUREMENT TEAM, MUNTEANU INDICATED
THAT IT WOULD BE MADE UP OF SOME SEVEN TO TEN PERSONS.
MUNTEANU SAID THAT FMT ATTEMPTING TO INCLUDE IN TEAM
AS MANY MEMBERS FROM PREVIOUS GOR AID PROCUREMENT
TEAM AS IS POSSIBLE. HE FIRST SAID THAT TEAM WOULD DO
TO U.S. IN SECOND HALF OF JUNE, BUT WHEN COMATT
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REMINDED MUNTEANU OF IMPORTANCE OF HAVING GOR
SEND PROCUREMENT TEAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, MUNTEANU
SAID MFT WOULD ATTEMPT TO INSURE THAT TEAM DEPARTS
IN EARLY JUNE. HE ADDED THAT MFT DID NOT WANT TO
SEND TEAM TO WASHINGTON UNTIL AFTER AID HAD HAD SOME
TIME TO REVIEW EQUIPMENT LIST, AND IN VIEW OF COMATT'S
COMMENTS, GOR PROCUREMENT TEAM WOULD PROBABLY TAKE

FINAL LIST WITH THEM TO WASHINGTON.

3. MUNTEANU ATTRIBUTED FMT'S DELAY IN COMPILING LIST AND IN COMING UP WITH PROCUREMENT TEAM TO FACT THAT PRACTICALLY EVERYONE IN MINISTRY IS OFF ON TRIPS TO JUDETE (PRESUMABLY TRYING TO HELP IMPLEMENT PRESIDENT'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED NEW MEASURES ON ECONOMY (SEE BUCHAREST 3313 AND PREVIOUS).

4. COMMENT. DESPITE MUNTEANU'S COMMENT TO COMATT THAT DEPUTY MINISTER MARGARITescu HAS AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE US WITH LIST AND TO AUTHORIZE PROCUREMENT TEAM, WE BELIEVE THAT ABSENCE FROM BUCHAREST OF DPM BURTICA AND OTHERS GOR OFFICIALS ON PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S FAR EAST TRIP IS PROBABLY MAIN REASON FOR DELAY IN PROVIDING US WITH LIST OF DATES FOR PROCUREMENT TEAM TO VISIT U.S. IN SUPPORT OF THIS PREMISE IS FACT THAT AT MAY 11 LUNCHEON AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN HONOR OF VISITING EXIM BANK TEAM, DEPUTY MINISTER MARGARITescu HAD TOLD COMATT HE HAD FOR REVIEW GOR'S EQUIPMENT LIST AND WE WOULD GET IT SHORTLY. THEREFORE, DESPITE MUNTEANU'S COMMENTS, WE DO NOT EXPECT GOR PROCUREMENT TEAM TO BE IN WASHINGTON PRIOR TO MID-JUNE. IF LIST IS IN FACT BASED ON "OLD LIST" DISCUSSED LAST SPRING WITH AID ASSESSMENT TEAM HEADED BY TAUBENBLATT, IT WILL BEAR CAREFUL SCRUTINY FOR ORIENTATION TOWARD HEAVY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, AND WE WILL BE DRAWING THIS POINT TO GOR'S ATTENTION ONCE NEW LIST AVAILABLE. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO MAKE SAME POINT TO ROMANIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. IN THIS RESPECT, WE BELIEVE THAT USG SHOULD TAKE FIRM STANCE TO ENSURE THAT \$13 MILLION IS EXPENDED IN MANNER CONSISTENT WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION UNDER WHICH FUNDS APPROPRIATED. TO DATE, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE GOR SENSITIVITIES ON EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE AND SHOULD BE IN GOOD POSITION TO ENCOURAGE GOR EFFORTS TO USE EARTHQUAKE FUNDS PROPERLY AND TO AVOID FUTURE CONTROVERSY CONCERNING ELIGIBLE AND NON-ELIGIBLE ITEMS. AGGREY

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